



Fraser Salmon Management Council

NEWSLETTER

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JULY 12, 2022

COVID 19 UPDATE

Even with COVID 19 restrictions lifted the FSMC continues to meet mostly virtually until all our member First Nations are confident that we can safely meet in-person, and until a fulsome budget for workplan implementation, including travel, is confirmed. During COVID, the absence of travel allowed the FSMC to do some work not initially budgeted for, which resulted in many more virtual meetings and committee sessions taking place than was anticipated. The FSMC staff are available during regular business hours through email and phone and remain conducting business as usual.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

To assist our administration, Kristin Hrapchak has been working on a contract basis as an Executive Assistant (EA) since this past April. This is a huge help to the organization, however more capacity is needed to meet the growing administrative requirements of the Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement (FSCMA) consisting of multiple technical, caucus and regional meetings required to inform collaborative FSMB monthly meetings, and other Tier 1 functions. The FSMC has also implemented a new meeting software overlay that will assist an improved meeting system using a cloud-based service created for Indigenous governance, called lyooq.

FSMC Staff emails:

Kristin Hrapchak: administration@frasersalmon.ca

Greg Witzky: operations@frasersalmon.ca

HR UPDATES

At a duly convened Main Table meeting on June 29, 2022 the FSMC Executive Director was suddenly terminated without cause from his position in our organization.

Fortunately, Greg Witzky, the current FSMC Operations Manager accepted a new role as interim Executive Director for the next three months. This interim position will undergo a performance evaluation then the Main Table will decide whether to continue with the employment arrangement.

Also, the day after the termination of the previous Executive Director the FSMC Communications Coordinator resigned from her position and moved onto another job. The Communications workload will be managed by the current contracted Executive Assistant in the interim.

LONG-TERM FUNDING

The FSMC receives its support funding from DFO via an AAROM agreement and is currently negotiating longer term funding outside this archaic program. AAROM criteria and terminology do not align agreeably with the intention of the FSCMA. Regardless, the FSMC is committed to pursuing fulsome financing to implement the Collaborative

Management Agreement and build our capacity to co-manage fisheries. The Main Table is examining the best way to initiate Part 5 of the FSCMA as we are currently in year 5 of 5 of the former FRAFS agreement.

MAIN TABLE

The Main Table meets every third Tuesday of the month to provide oversight and guidance to the FSMC staff on implementation of the FSMCA and Tier 1 activities. The current term for the MT Directors is 4 years and might need to be formally addressed at the Fall round of our four upcoming member delegate Regional Assemblies. The Main Table is also in the process of reaching a more concise engagement process for the Regional Assemblies through our Collaborative Engagement Structure (CES) Regional Sessions and hopes to present the findings soon. To date, attendance at these CES Regional Sessions has been very low, so we need to collectively determine how best to motivate member participation. Perhaps a stipend for attendance will help.

CHINOOK RECOVERY & REBUILDING INITIATIVE (CRR)

In 2021 the FSMC was successful with an application to the BCSRIF program for the implementation of a 3-year funding envelope to support a technical advisory team to assess numerous Chinook management strategies and utilizing Traditional Knowledge to inform western science recovery and rebuilding activities. Some of the work completed in the 2021 fiscal year included establishing capacity via a project manager job description/position and developing a scope of work for the technical advisory team. The CRR group meets every two weeks and intends to engage with Indigenous Resource Management Authorities (IRMA) in this the second year of the initiative. It has become apparent that a specialized project implementation plan coordinator position is required to make the project a success. Plans are in the making to head hunt this person ASAP.

FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT BOARD (FSMB)

There is no formal update from the FSMB for this newsletter as the FSMB annual workplan and other required deliverables are not yet completed for fiscal 2021 and 2022.

The terms for the Board representatives are two years.

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC)

The JTC has been busy finalizing a workplan for the 2022-23 fiscal year. There are currently two key mandated work items that the JTC will input into the current workplan. One involves Chinook fisheries assessment and management with emphasis on the stream type salmon from the Fraser River and the other on the extent and distribution on FSC fishing for Fraser sockeye. The FSMB is currently reviewing the JTC's draft workplan with an objective to approve it very soon.

The terms for the JTC are one year to start then 2 years offset with the FSMB.

FSMB & JTC Participants

<u>FSMC FSMB</u>	<u>DFO FSMB</u>	<u>FSMC JTC</u>	<u>DFO JTC</u>
Christina Ciesielski	Linda Higgins	Mike Staley (Co-chair)	Les Jantz (Co-chair)
Pat Matthew	Terri Bonnet	Roger Dunlop	Kaitlyn Dionne
Mike Baird	Duncan Stephen	Aidan Fisher	Brittany Jenewein
Tony Roberts Jr.	Jennifer Nener	Marc Labelle	Luke Warkentin
		Shamus Curtis	Matt Mortimer

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURE (CES) REGIONAL SESSIONS FOR CONSERVATION & HARVEST CONCERNS

The Winter rounds of CES regional sessions were postponed due to human resource capacity issues which since has been resolved through the addition of the contracted EA position.

ANNUAL SIGNATORY ASSEMBLY

The FSMC Annual Assembly was held on Dec 6, 2021, via Zoom, where the Annual Work Plan was reviewed and approved by consensus. The approved workplan was for the AAROM Core funds of \$525,000. Recently DFO announced an additional \$300,000 amendment to the 2022-23 budget.

MEMBER DELEGATES

As a reminder, it is the duty of the Signatory Nation to notify the FSMC of a change in their Member Delegate. Be advised the process of replacing a Member Delegate requires a Band Council Resolution stating the replacement of a Member Delegate. Note if the MD is a MT Director our current practice is to retain the MT Director until such time as the Regional Assembly (election) results are determined.

FORUMS

The Forums took place virtually, on Jan 18-20, Mar 1-3, and Apr 12-14, as scheduled. These Forums are being examined and revamped to better align with the collaborative management intent of the FSMCA. This work will be undertaken by the Forum Planning Committee and FSMC staff. Currently, these forums are considered consultation and there are no mandates for action in place. The annual Forum letters are available on the website, www.frasersalmon.ca

BIG BAR LANDSLIDE

Information on Big Bar Landslide continues to be distributed through the FSMC to First Nations throughout the watershed. Written updates are provided monthly by the communications team. Technical advisory updates have been paused while the project Joint Executive Steering Committee undertakes a Strategic Decision-Making landslide remediation study. The First Nations Leadership Panel will still meet when convened by

the Joint Executive Steering Committee to provide guidance and approval of planned remediation activities at the landslide site.

In March 2022, local First Nations, and researchers from Simon Fraser University (SFU) met on-site at Big Bar to collaborate on the Fraser River Landslide Research project, which is supported by the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The Fraser Salmon Management Council continues to provide Indigenous liaison support to the project team for the First Nations engagement component, which is critical to the project's success.

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